

the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for the great and various favors which he has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of nations, and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, directly and faithfully obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us,) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.—G. Washington.

It is one of the fine sayings of Dr. South that "the idleness be a sin which the devil loves, to tempt men to, yet he is never guilty of it himself."

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Christian Life

A Thanksgiving Hymn

For bud and for bloom and for balm-laden breeze,
For the singing of birds from the hill to the seas,
For the beauty of dawn and the brightness of noon,
For the light in the night of the stars and the moon,
We praise thee, gracious God.

For the sun-ripened fruit and the billowy grain,
For the orange and apple, the corn and the cane,
For the bountiful harvests now gathered and stored
That by thee in the lap of the nations were poured,
We praise thee, gracious God.

For the blessing of friends, for the old and the new,
For the hearts that are trusted and trusting and true
For the tones that we love, for the light of the eye
That warms with a welcome and glooms with good-by,
We praise thee, gracious God.

That the desolate poor may find shelter and bread,
That the sick may be comforted, nourished and fed,
That the sorrow may cease of the sighing and sad,
That the spirit bowed down may be lifted and glad,
We praise thee, pitying Lord.

That brother the hand of his brother may clasp
From ocean to ocean in friendliest grasp,
That for North and for South and East and for West
The horror of war be forever at rest,
We pray thee, pitying Lord

For the blessings of earth and of air and of sky,
That fall on us all from the Father on high,
For the crown of all blessing since blessing begun,
For the gift, "the unspeakable gift," of thy Son,
We praise thee, gracious God.

S. E. ADAMS.

New Mercies

Every year brings new mercies. Old mercies call for gratitude. We never can forget the past. Our fathers have told of the mercies of God in their time. Those who are old can remember wonderful things which God hath done in their day. We all can recall the blessings of former years. But the past year has come freighted with new mercies. Some of these new mercies are like unto the old ones. The seasons, the sunshine and rain, the harvests, the preservation of life and health, and a thousand other good things are repetitions of what God has been for us all our lives. We sometimes call them common mercies, because they come so constantly and so regularly. The stream never ceases to flow.

But there are mercies which are new in another sense. We never saw them before. They belong to this present time. Some of them the world never witnessed before. They are peculiar to our day. They lay us under special obligations of gratitude. Perhaps we may have seen the beginning of them in former years, but this year has unfolded them in a wonderful manner before our eyes.

We have seen the spirit of Christ coming into the institutions and activities of man as never before. We see the spirit of Christ in education. The tendency of education has been toward skepticism, and at times toward atheism and materialism. But in our day we witness a rapid movement toward Christ. It is more and more manifest in universities, colleges, public schools, newspapers, and all educational forces. Jesus Christ occupies a larger place in the educational thought of men than ever before.

The spirit of Christ is coming into political life in a larger measure. There is much in the political activities of the times to be deplored, but one who takes a broad view of the times cannot fail to see that a great change is going on in this interesting and important field. Political campaigns are conducted on a higher plane; candidates for high offices are purer men; the arguments used in political conventions and legislative bodies are of a higher order. The spirit of Christ is coming into the political life of the nation.

The recognition of the brotherhood of humanity is a new mercy. Even yet the nations, the races, the classes of men are too much divided. But the walls of separation are being broken down by the spirit of Christ. The English speaking nations are drawing closer together. The Christian nations feel the bond of a common brotherhood. The nations of the whole earth are compelled to recognize that the interest of one is the interest of all. The hand on the dial is moving steadily toward the hour when all nations shall recognize the fact that they are not enemies and rivals, but members of one great family whose Head and Father is the Lord Almighty.

Side by side with this is the fact that men are tending rapidly toward the solution of all national and international difficulties and problems by intelligent and peaceable means. The spirit of arbitration is in the air. The race question, the temperance question, the labor question, and all other great questions which perplex reformers and statesmen are being worked out by patient thought and Christian forbearance. War is not over, but differences which a few years ago would have precipitated blood shed and battles are now being taken into thoughtful consideration and patiently adjusted. This is the trend of the times. When an exception occurs and men rush to arm the whole civilized world deplores the attitude of the contending parties and prays for a speedy settlement.

Another note in our Thanksgiving anthem is the enlarged spirit of philanthropy. Never were such streams of money and sympathy poured out to educate the ignorant, to relieve the suffering, and to bring light into the dark places of the earth. Money for missions, men and women laying their lives on the altar for their unfortunate fellow beings in all parts of the world, millions for education and for hospitals, are among the evidences that men are coming to love their fellow men as never before. The interest of good men in the redemption of the great cities from the sin, poverty, and shame that flow into them is increasing with every year. We begin to see the dawn when the dark places of the city, which are now habitations of cruelty, shall rejoice in the light, and when we shall have a holy city on the earth.

Religion is becoming more intelligent, more sensible, more effective. Religion has always been hampered by human ignorance and folly. It has been adulterated